और उन्होंने वहां सरकारी तौर पर किन-किन अधिकारियों से मुलाकात की ; और

(ख) उनके साथ उनकी क्या-क्या बातचीत हुई थी ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) पिछले कुछ महीनों में रक्षा मंत्री सिंगापुर, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका और फ्रांस की सरकारी यात्रा पर गए थे । यात्रा के दौरान उन्होंने क्रमशः सिंगापुर के रक्षा मंत्री डा० यो निग हां, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के रक्षा सचिव, मि० डिक चिने, और फ्रांस के रक्षा मंत्री मि० पियरे जोक्स से तथा अन्य राजनीतिक नेताओं और उच्च स्तरीय अधिकारियों से भेंट की थी ।

(ख) इन भेंट वार्ताओं के दौरान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा संबंधी समस्याओं, भारत और उन देशों, जहां रक्षा मंत्री गए थे, के बीच रक्षा संबंधी वर्तमान सहयोग कार्यक्रमों और इस क्षेत्र में भावी सहयोग की सम्भावनाओं पर विचार-विमर्श हुआ ।

Defence Cooperation with Israel

1023. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Israeli defence delegation, recently, visited the country for the purpose of defence cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, what are the areas of defence cooperation for which talks were held; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The discussions between the two countries were exploratory in nature and no arrangement for cooperation has so far been finalised.

News Item Captioned "Hall Chopp rejected by Army, I.A.F."

1024. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Will the Minister of DEFENCE b pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the new item "HAL chopper rejected b Army, I. A. F." which appeared i the 'Indian Express' of Bombay edition on June 19, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Initially it was proposed to design & develop an Armed Light Helicopter, with single engine configuration. However, keeping in view the experience gained in actual conflicts by other Air Forces and the envolving Service requirements, it was decided to change over to a twin engine configuration, work on which commenced in 1984. The first prototype of the ALH has already rolled out on 29th June, 1992 and flight trials are due to commence shortly. The helicopter has multirole capacity and is acceptable to the Services.

Electronic Warfare

1025. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the importance of electronic warfare is likely to be established in the coming years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India is in danger of falling behind its neighbouring countries in electronic warfare; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR). (a) Yes,

(b) and (c) Government keeps a close watch on all developments in the field of Electronic Warfare and takes appropriate measures to update and upgrade our capabilities in this field, to counter the potential threats.

Jet Trainers for Indian Air Force

1026. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 69 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th July, 1992 and state the present requirement of Jet trainers in the Indian Air Force to fill the critical gap in training of Pilots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): The Indian Air Force needs a trainer aircraft to import advanced training to the IAF pilots. It would not be in public interest to divulge further details.

Anamolies in the 'One Rank One Pension' Scheme

1027. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the one rank one pension of the ex-servicemen of the army is fully satisfactory;

(b) whether there are any anomalies in the Government formula to meet their demands;

(c) what is the number of ex-servicemen on pension today; and

(d) what would be the expenditure per annum if their demands are accepted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government have sanctioned a scheme for the grant of One Time Increase in pensions to Armed Forces personnel who retired before 1-1-86. A Committee to examine the anomalies/problems arising from the implementation of the aforesaid scheme has also been constituted.

(c) Approximately 11 lakhs.

(d) The exact financial implication of meeting the demands of ex-Servicemen for grant of One Rank One Pension has not been computed.

Modernisation of food processing Industry

1028. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing industry in the country has out dated machinery;

(b) whether Government have drawn any plan for modernisation of the industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The technology and the machinery used by the food industry in the country at present ranges from simple equipments and processes to most sophisticated advanced technologies with State of Art equipment. However, a segment of the Food Industry requires upgradation of the technology for production of processed food items acceptable to the international standards. The Government have liberalised policies for foreign technology agreements and import of capital